



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Celebration of the Epiphany is celebrated this Sunday. Jesus, today, is revealed as the light of the nations as we celebrate the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi. Today, not taking away our focus from the New Born King, the Church recognizes the Coming of the Magi, The Three Kings. The Epiphany honors and recognizes the three wise men making their journey from the East to find Jesus and worship Him.

When the Magi found the place where the Christ Child was, they rejoiced exceedingly and fell down before Jesus and worshiped him. It was an appropriate reaction in the presence of the King of Kings. Then they opened their treasures and presented them to Jesus. The three gifts were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were not random gifts. They were each significant at the time and have important meanings for us today. The gold points to Jesus' royalty, the frankincense to his divinity, and the myrrh to his humanity. These gifts tell the story of how God himself, who came down from Heaven as our King (gold) to fulfill his priestly duties (frankincense) and eventually die for our sins (myrrh). Through these gifts, the Magi "preached" the gospel in a very real and tangible way.

As we celebrate The Epiphany, we ought to consider our journeys from our homes to come here to Our Lady of Grace Church to bow down and worship the Lord. How important it is for us to make this journey each week for the Celebration of the Eucharist. Our presence, gathered together at the Table of the Lord, listening to the Word of God and receiving The Eucharist, gives witness that the Lord manifests Himself and we have come before Him offering the gifts of ourselves. Along with our physical presence at the Table of the Lord, as the Three Wise Men brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, what gifts are we bringing to the Lord? The Church asks us to be stewards in the House of the Lord. We are asked to share our time, talent and treasure. These are all precious commodities with all that is taking place in our lives but they are indeed worthy offerings to the Lord. Then, strengthened in our faith through our participation in the Eucharist, as participating members of the Church here at Our Lady of Grace, we make our way back to our homes, our workplaces, our daily activities. Each of us in our own way then, like the Magi, are preaching the Gospel.

My brothers and sister in Christ, in imitation of the Three Wise Men, come let us bow down and worship.

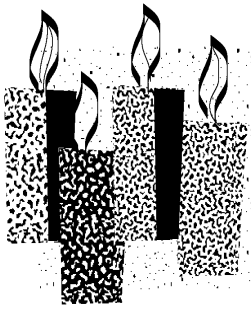
-Fr. Raphael



Second Sunday In Ordinary Time (January 14th)

John 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.



*Celebrate the
Season of Light*

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

As we welcome the Year of 2024, we are thankful for all the good the Lord has brought to our parish community and we need to thank the Lord for the many blessings our Church Community has received through your continued generosity, sharing your time, your talents and your treasure here at Our Lady of Grace Church for the support and growth of our Parish Family.

Here at Our Lady of Grace Church, we have experienced a 19% increase in expenses over the last year. We were fortunate to have received two bequests that allowed us to take care of some deferred property maintenances allowing us to operate in the black, despite these increased expenses. With this being said, we are hoping to end this calendar year with a 2% increase in plate income over last year.

We ask that you be generous in your End of Year Offerings to Our Lady of Grace Church. It would be wonderful if we would surpass our budgeted amount of \$26,000.00 for Christmas and End of Year Contributions. Please know that your generous contributions help our Church meet our end of the year expenses and start 2024 in a positive position.

We are most grateful to you for your support throughout the year allowing us to accomplish our Parish goals.

2024 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Catholic Extension 2024 Family Appointment Calendars are available. We are grateful and we extend our sincere appreciation to the Catholic Funeral Cremation and Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Oakland for again sponsoring the 2024 calendars. You may pickup your copy in the Church. **Please only one per household.**



CYO ATHLETICS CRAB FEED February 3rd

Join us as we raise funds for
OLG's CYO Athletics
Get Your Tickets Today!

- Doors open at 5:00pm in Stack Center
- Cost is \$85 per person
- Limited Tables of 10 seats for \$800 and Tables of 12 seats for \$950
- Menu includes Crab or Chicken, Pasta, Salad and Bread
- No-Host Bar
- Music, Silent Auction and Raffle!

KidKare will be available for \$30 per child (space is limited).

Get your tickets online by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/OLG-CYO> or at the Parish Office. See you there!



CYO GIRLS BASKETBALL REGISTRATION



Girl's Basketball registration is open to grades 2nd-8th. Fee for the 2024 program year is \$195 + uniform fee. Space is limited! **Registration closes on January 10th.** To register, please visit: www.olgcvcyo.com. For more information, questions or if you would like to coach, please email: olgcycv@gmail.com. Go Lions!

ANNUAL SEMINARY COLLECTION This Weekend—January 6th & 7th

Our diocese asks us to help with the work of education for tomorrow's priests through our contributions for the Seminary Collection. This year is another challenging year for all of us financially but the Diocese humbly appeals to all of you to give your best effort to support our seminarians in their training and formation in your own unique and creative way. Please include the seminarians in your prayers. Prayer especially during Mass is one of the most effective ways in campaigning and promoting vocations in our Church. You may make your check out to "Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland". Envelopes are in the pews for your use. Your kindness, generosity and prayers are deeply appreciated.

*We have seen
his star*

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*nations walk by your light and
kings by your shining radiance*

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PLEASE NOTE

Due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher, we are not able to report the monthly offering of December. It will be announced in the January 14th Bulletin. We thank you for your patience.



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

We deeply thank the following donors who have given generously towards sponsoring our Altar Candle Memorial.

Given By:	In Memory of / In Honor of:
Sheila Linn	Frank Lang
Kaye McCann	John McCann
Alice Goncalves	Alice Goncalves & Family

**WALK FOR LIFE
WEST COAST 2024
Saturday, January 20th**



January 20th marks the 20th Anniversary of the Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco-America's 2nd largest Pro-Life event! As we have every year since 2004, we will stand faithfully, prayerfully, and hopefully for the littlest and most vulnerable among us. The rally begins at 12:30pm in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, followed by the Walk, down Market Street to Justin Herman Plaza. This event is truly changing the hearts and minds and has helped to revivify the Pro-Life movement on the West Coast! *The peaceful participation of our parish is essential to continuing this pro-life transformation of our culture.* To register and for more information please visit: <https://www.walkforlifewc.com/>.



YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2023 will be prepared at your request. Please phone Jay at 510-537-0806, with your name and envelope number. Your statement will be available for you to pick up once it has been signed.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give 10% of your income to the Church and charity, for example, God will help you live on the rest.

Offerings of for the Month of NOVEMBER:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 35,342.00
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 38,000.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [2,658.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [969.00]

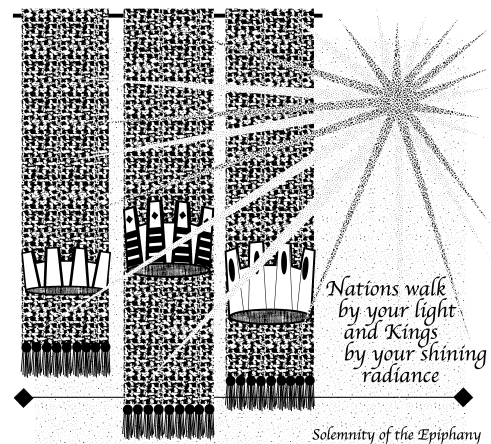
May God bless your continuing generosity.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

Jaime Arce	Sheila McAlinden
Phyllis Barthman	Cec Penland
Lois Belmessieri	Julie Richardson
Jot Brown	Diana Riley
Raul Cepeda	Jenny Roberts
Nancy French	Al Rojas
Joan Gabrielli	Alyssia Tortora
Skeet Jennings	Arthur Williams
Brian Linney	Peggy Winkenbach



Solemnity of the Epiphany

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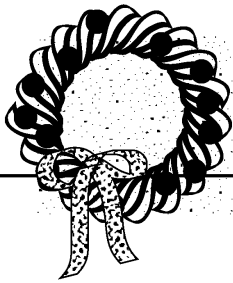
Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

In Memorial

GRACE LETTEER

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



Rejoice

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MEN'S FAITH SHARE

The OLG's Men Faith Share Group meets on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Stack Center, Room 7. All men of the Parish are invited to come. This group meets each week to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings for the Mass. If you are looking for a small group setting to pray with and explore the Word each week, plan on joining us!



Our Parish uses Flocknote for our parish-wide email service. Sign up for this convenient service to ensure you get up-to-the-minute news about important parish information and events. **It's easy and free!** To register from your computer, go to the Parish website at <http://www.olgcv.org>, scroll down the homepage and click on the Flocknote box. To register from your phone, text keyword **OLGCV** to 84576. To ensure emails from Flocknote do not get rejected, add "mail@flocknote.com" to your email address book or safe sender list.



ROSARY BEFORE MASS

Come join in prayer of the Rosary 30 minutes before each of the weekend liturgies. Pray for our Parish. All are welcome!

ADORATION & RECONCILIATION

Join us on Thursdays, 6:00-7:00pm for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation and on Saturdays, immediately following the 8:15am Mass, concluding at 10:00am.



MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Let us love the Immaculata every day always more. On this point, there is not and there cannot be any limits as she increasingly purifies our hearts of naturalism and transforms us into herself."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 7th:

The Epiphany of the Lord

Whole Family Program
10:15am—Augustine Center

1st Communion Class -Year 2
10:15am—Stack Center

Tuesday, January 9th:

Men's Faith Share
7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Wednesday, January 10th:

RCIA
7:00pm—Parish Office

Thursday, January 11th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
6:00pm—Church

AA Serenity Group
7:30pm—Augustine Center

Saturday, January 13th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

Sunday, January 14th:

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

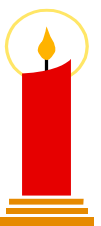
1st Communion Class -Year 1
10:15am—Stack Center

FR. TOM CZECK'S PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND Spring 2024

Fr. Tom will be leading a pilgrimage to Ireland from **April 22nd to May 2nd**. Flights depart from Los Angeles and Chicago. Price per person is \$3599 plus tax. If you would like more information please call Fr. Tom at 847-367-6316 or email him at MINationalAssistant@proton.me

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

Candles for our candle stand are available for purchase. The candles will burn for 5 days and *are only intended for use in the church*. Please do not remove the glass globes from the stand. **The cost per candle is \$5.00.** You may put your payment in the pouch, located at the candle stand.



Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, January 7th

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30am OLG Community
 9:00am Joanne Sargent – D
 11:00am Veronica Johnson Farias – D
 1:00pm Adrian Alejandro Reyes – D

MONDAY, January 8th

The Baptism of the Lord

8:15am Ester Perdido Baclig – D

TUESDAY, January 9th

8:15am Kathleen Richardson – L

WEDNESDAY, January 10th

8:15am Ralph Sullivan – D

THURSDAY, January 11th

8:15am Lilia Sousa – D

FRIDAY, January 12th

8:15am Helen Nayowski – D

SATURDAY, January 13th

St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

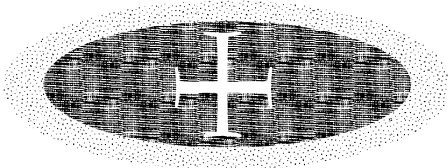
8:15am Petronilo Pabalate – D

5:00pm Leo Lombardo – D

SUNDAY, January 14th

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30am Manuel, Antonio & Belmida Freitas – D
 9:00am OLG Community
 11:00am Al & Chris Low – D
 1:00pm No Intention



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COLUMBIETTES

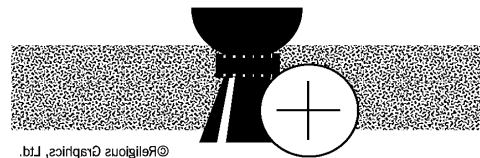
Attention Ladies! Are you interested in becoming active in our parish? Come see what the Columbiettes are all about. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6:30-7:30pm in Stack Center, OLG Room. Come to our next meeting on **January 17th**. For additional information, please visit:

<https://www.californiacolumbiettes.com>

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 8th through January 14th

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Mark 1:7-11
 Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22; Mark 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; Mark 2:13-17
 Sunday: 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19;
 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20;
 John 1:35-42



FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

Flower donation envelopes may be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one or other occasion. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jay at 510-537-0806. Your donation in honor of your loved one will be mentioned in the bulletin.



The **January 2024** issue of The Catholic Voice is available online at: <https://www.oakdiocese.org/catholicvoiceoakland>

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When we all see God in each other, we will love one another as He loves us all. That is the fulfillment of the law, to love one another."

-Mother Theresa, 1997

To join our work with Pax Christi, please contact the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our advertisers who make our weekly bulletin possible and so generously support our Parish. We are grateful to them! This week we extend our gratitude to:

4K COMMUNICATIONS